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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/668,849	09/23/2003	David S. Benco	28-21-21-22-21	4961

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Docket Administrator (Room 3J-219)
Lucent Technologies Inc.
101 Crawfords Corner Road
Holmdel, NJ 07733-3030

EXAMINER

BARQADLE, YASIN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2153

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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06/27/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/668,849

Applicant(s)

BENCO ET AL.

Examiner

YASIN M. BARQADLE

Art Unit

2153

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 July 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Response to Amendment

Applicant's arguments filed on July 23, 2007 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claims 1-20 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McNerney et al US Patent No. (5,999,208).

As per claims 1, 11-14 and 20, McNerney et al teaches a method comprising the steps of: receiving, from a host terminal, a request to set up a virtual conference, the virtual conference defining a communication forum for communicating virtual conference information among a plurality of virtual reality terminals including the host terminal (fig. 2 and 4; col. 5, lines 48-64),

the virtual conference information including one or more virtual images (see fig. 4, 610); determining selected attributes of the virtual conference; retrieving information supporting the selected attributes col. 5, lines 51-64 ad col. 6, lines 2-28);

filtering at least a portion of the information, yielding filtered information (col. 6, lines 39-66 image are retrieved from memory 118 and used to update the display of the image presented to the conferees), defining the virtual conference information (col. 4, lines 36-60 and col. 5, lines 51-64); sending at least a portion of the virtual conference information to a virtual conference bridge (col. 5, lines 48 to col. 6, line 2; col. 6 lines 45-48); and connecting the host terminal to the virtual conference bridge, thereby enabling a setting up the virtual conference including initially the host terminal (col. 5, lines 48 to col. 6, line 2; col. 6 lines 45-48. See abstract).

Regarding claims 1, 11-14 and 20, McNerney et al teaches updating retrieved images for presented to the conferees. However, McNerney et al does not explain how the updating of the images is done and consequently McNerney et al is silent supplementing one or more of the information and filtered information with supplemental information by removing extraneous information from retrieved images. Nonetheless, filtering or removing extraneous information from images in conferencing technology or overwriting retrieved image with supplemental information in conferencing systems is well

known in the art. One ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would utilize such techniques to update images presented to conferees as suggested by McNerney et al. In doing so clearly visible images that are recognizable are produced and presented to conferees.

McNerney et al further teaches a system comprising: a switching center (see fig. 1 and col. 3, lines 36-47); a virtual conference database (storage 118, fig. 2); and a virtual conference bridge (see fig. 1 and col. 3, lines 36-50), the switching center being operable to retrieve virtual conference information including one or more virtual images from the virtual conference database and send the information to the virtual conference bridge (col. 6, lines 39-66).

As per claim 2, McNerney et al teaches, wherein the step of retrieving information comprises retrieving a portion of the virtual conference information from a virtual conference database (col. 6, lines 39-66).

As per claim 3, McNerney et al teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the step of retrieving information comprises retrieving a portion of the virtual conference information from the host terminal, the virtual conference information including one or more facial images of a host operating the host terminal (col. 6, lines 39-66 see fig. 4, facial images on the chairs).

As per claim 4, McNerney et al teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining selected attributes comprises receiving indicia of options selected via the host terminal (col. 6, lines 39-66 see fig. 4, facial images on the chairs).

As per claims 5 and 15, McNerney et al teaches wherein the step of receiving indicia of options comprises receiving indicia of a selected room type, the step of retrieving information comprising retrieving information associated with the selected room type from a virtual conference database (col. 6, lines 39-66 see fig. 4 and abstract).

As per claims 6 and 16, McNerney et al teaches the invention, wherein the step of receiving indicia of options comprises receiving indicia of a selected outdoor environment, the step of retrieving information comprising retrieving information associated with the selected outdoor environment from a virtual conference database (col. 4, lines 36-57 and col. 6, lines 39-66 see fig. 4 and abstract).

As per claim 7, McNerney et al claim 4, wherein the step of receiving indicia of options comprises receiving indicia of a selected presentation medium, the step of retrieving information comprising retrieving information associated with the

selected presentation medium from a virtual conference database (col. 4, lines 36-57 and col. 6, lines 39-66 see fig. 4 and abstract).

As per claims 8 and 17, 20, McNerney et al teaches the invention, wherein the step of receiving indicia of options comprises receiving indicia of a selected meeting room facility, the step of retrieving information comprising retrieving information associated with the selected meeting room facility from a virtual conference database (col. 4, lines 36-57 and col. 6, lines 39-66 see fig. 4 and abstract).

As per claims 9 and 18, McNerney et al teaches the invention, further comprising: receiving, from at least one participating terminal, a request to join the virtual conference; and connecting the at least one participating terminal to the virtual conference bridge, thereby joining the at least one participating terminal to the virtual conference (col. 4, lines 36-57 and col. 6, lines 39-66 see fig. 1 and fig. 4 and abstract).

As per claim 10, McNerney et al teaches the invention method of claim 9, wherein the step of retrieving information comprises retrieving virtual conference information from one or more of: the virtual conference database,

the host terminal and the at least one participating terminal, the conference information from the host terminal and the at least one participating terminal including facial images of operators of the host terminal and the at least one participating terminal (col. 4, lines 36-57 and col. 6, lines 39-66 see fig. 4 and abstract).

Conclusion

The prior made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yasin Barqadle whose telephone number is 571-272-3947. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Burgess can be reached on 571-272-3949. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either private PAIR or public PAIR system. Status information for unpublished applications is available through private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Yasin M Barqadle/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2153